



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Public Library

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, September 23, 2005

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Teens Invited to Visit Their Libraries and “Get Real!” During Teen Read Week 2005 from Oct. 16-22

SAN DIEGO – The City of San Diego Public Library welcomes teens to help celebrates the eighth annual Teen Read Week, Oct. 16 – 22. The Library joins hundreds of other libraries, schools and bookstores across the country that are encouraging teens to celebrate this year’s theme, “Get Real! @ your library.”

Held annually the third week of October, Teen Read Week is the national adolescent literacy initiative of the Young Adult Library Services Association, a division of the American Library Association. This year’s theme encourages teens to explore the world of nonfiction books, such as biographies, self-help books, strange but true stories, and more.

“Teens today seem to have less and less free time, and there are increasingly more activities to for them to take part in during what little leisure time they have,” said City Library Director Anna Tatár. “That is why it’s important to encourage teens to set aside some time to read.”

Literacy is a topic of both local and national concern, and falling test scores and lower graduation rates among teens today are a serious issue. In California, only 40 percent of students scored at proficient or above levels in English-Language Arts, according to the state Department of Education’s 2005 report.

Studies show a regular reading habit increases reading proficiency. “One of the most important ways teens acquire the habit is by watching adults they respect,” said Marina Perez, a young adult services coordinator who oversees the Central Library’s Teen Space.

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Being around adults who are avid readers can counteract the latest statistics from The Nation's Report Card (<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard>), which indicate that in homes across America the number of different types of reading materials has decreased, and a smaller percentage of 17-year-olds saw adults reading in their homes.

The San Diego Public Library hopes to increase teen literacy locally by offering a series of programs for teens during Teen Read Week. To learn more about events, activities and programs, the teens and other members of the public are invited to stop by their local library or visit the Library on the City's Web site: <http://www.sandiego.gov/public-library/> .

Parents of teens are encouraged to celebrate Teen Read Week at home. The San Diego Public Library offers these ideas:

- Visit the local public or school library with your teen to attend a program or to check out books.
- Set aside time each night for the family to read.
- Give books or magazine subscriptions to your teen as a gift or reward.
- Share your favorite book with your teen.
- Surf the Internet with your teen to learn about new books or authors. A good place to start is the American Library Association's book list (<http://www.ala.org/yalsa/booklists>).
- Join a book discussion group at the school or public library.

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<http://www.sandiego.gov/public-library/>